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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/964,894	09/28/2001	Toru Takehisa	011307	1326
23850	7590	04/19/2004	EXAMINER	
ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP 1725 K STREET, NW SUITE 1000 WASHINGTON, DC 20006			MACHUGA, JOSEPH S	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3762		9
DATE MAILED: 04/19/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/964,894	TAKEHISA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Joseph S. Machuga	3762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 4-7 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 4-7 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed January 22, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the Anazawa reference teaches that composite membranes obtained by coating or clogging are undesirable. While it is noted in the reference that it's difficult to manufacture, it is not undesirable. The reference notes in column 2 that this material has an extremely high gas permeability rate and a higher gas exchange rate than the homogeneous membrane. These features are enormously useful in artificial lungs because the thickness can be correspondingly reduced. So there is motivation to look to compositions such as that taught by Kashiwabara and Motomura.

Further, while it is true Motomura does not disclose the material claimed it does teach that dimethyl ditetradecyl ammonium salt and dimethyl dioctadecyl ammonium salt are cationic compound having similar properties and produce similar results when dissolved with heparin (note claim 3 and the example on page 5.) This teaching would provide the motivation to modify Kashiwabara's material to make obvious the coating material recited in the claims.

Finally, to use this material in Anazawa's device is considered obvious given the teachings provided for in that reference as discussed above.

For these reasons the claimed invention is considered taught by the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anazawa et al (#5192320) in view of Kashiwabara et al (EP-1057492) and Motomura et al (EP-0769503.)

Anazawa et al disclose an artificial lung. The reference teaches (note column 6 lines 22-52) that the membrane of the device should be made of poly(4-methylpentene-1.) The O₂ and ethanol permeation rates disclosed in the reference are within the limits defined in the claims. Not disclosed by this document is the surface coating that is derived from heparin and a quaternary aliphatic alkyl ammonium salt.

Kashiwabara et al disclose a blood compatible composition for use as a coating material in medical devices such as a pump-oxygenator, artificial heart, etc. The essential material in the composition is an organic cationic compound and heparin or heparin

derivative. The reference teaches (note paragraph 22) that in addition to an organic cationic compound having between 24-32 carbon atoms the compound can include an organic cationic compound having 4 alkyl groups and more than 32 carbon atoms. In Example 3, dimethyl didodecyl ammonium chloride and dimethyl ditetradecyl ammonium chloride were mixed in the proportions claimed. Thereafter heparin was dissolved in the mixture. The resulting product was a coating material having anti-thrombogenic properties.

Motomura et al teach that dimethyl ditetradecyl ammonium salt and dimethyl dioctadecyl ammonium salt are cationic compound having similar properties and produce similar results when dissolved with heparin (note claim 3 and the example on page 5.)

Given these disclosures, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add Kashiwabara et al's coating to the blood contacting side of the membrane in Anazawa et al's device for the purpose of impart anti-thrombogenic properties thereto. To use dimethyl dioctadecyl ammonium salt in place of dimethyl ditetradecyl ammonium salt in Kashiwabara et al's product and process (noted above) would also have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art given Motomura et al's teaching that they are known equivalents for this purpose and would result in predictable variations in the lifetime of the coating, capability of the coating, etc.

Conclusion

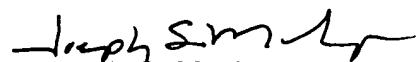
3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

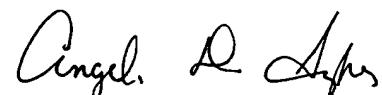
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph S. Machuga whose telephone number is 703-305-6184. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday; 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela D Sykes can be reached on 703-308-5181. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Joseph S. Machuga
Examiner
Art Unit 3762



ANGELA D. SYKES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700